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A B S T R A C T

A disposable diaper includes a liquid absorbent core having upper and lower surfaces and extending over a crotch region and further into front and rear waist regions, a liquid-pervious first sheet having an upper section covering the upper surface of the core and a lower section covering the lower surface of the core, and a liquid-impervious second sheet lying outside the lower section of the first sheet. The core is formed with a slit extending completely through in the thickness direction from the upper surface to the lower surface and extending in the longitudinal direction from the front waist region to the crotch region. The upper and lower sections of the first sheet define a tubular liquid passage extending along a longitudinal center line from the front waist region to the crotch region.